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REPORT  
OF  
THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY  
OF  
LONDON ;

HELD AT  
THE SOCIETY'S ROOMS, No. 21, REGENT STREET,  
FEBRUARY 15th, 1842.

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## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1842.

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# REPORT.

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THE Microscopical Society of London held their Second Annual Meeting, February 15th, 1842: —

RICHARD OWEN, Esq., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.  
When the following Reports were read.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The Council have to report to the Society, that the number of its Members now amounts to 185. That the collection of Microscopic Objects consists of about 150 specimens; and that upwards of ten volumes have been added to the Library since the last Report, all of which have been presented to the Society. That the number of Papers read during the past year has been fifteen. Two of the three Microscopes ordered by the Society have been completed and are in their possession, and the third will shortly be ready. A Cabinet, capable of containing many thousand objects, has been purchased, and is now fit for the reception of any donations that may be made to the Society in this department. The publication of some of the earlier papers is in progress, and a part of the Transactions will soon be ready for distribution.

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## REPORT OF AUDITORS.

We have examined the Treasurer's Account with the vouchers, for the year ending at this date, and find the balance in favour of the Society to be £226. 3s. 4d. of which £210. 8s. are at Lubbock and Co.'s, and £15. 15s. 4d. in the Treasurer's hands.

JOS. J. LISTER,  
M. J. RIPPINGHAM. } Auditors.

*January 7, 1842.*



The President then addressed the Meeting as follows.

GENTLEMEN,

If the review of the acts and progress of this Society during the first, and, as it may be termed, experimental year of its existence, was acknowledged by all its members to be both gratifying and encouraging, such feelings must be more strongly called forth by a similar retrospect of our proceedings during the past year.

From the Report of the Council you have learned that the number of members now amounts to 185; the number of microscopical specimens to about 650; and that fifteen papers have been read and discussed at the monthly evening meetings.

The Report of the Auditors expresses not less strongly, both by the amount of our receipts and the nature of the payments, the health and vigour of the Society.

The hope which I ventured to express last year, that no great length of time would elapse before the collection of microscopical instruments would have been begun on a scale commensurate with the wants and objects of the Society, has been realized. The state of the funds has justified the Council, earlier than could have been anticipated, in ordering from Mr. Powell, Mr. Ross and Mr. Smith, respectively, a microscope of their best construction; and the Society now possesses a specimen of the art as carried

to its present pitch of perfection by each of these eminent makers.

The regulations by which these valuable instruments can be made most useful to the members of the Society, are now under the consideration of the Council.

I am happy to see that one of Mr. Powell's microscopes is described in the last number of the 'Microscopic Journal;' and a similar account of that which has been made for the Society by Mr. Smith, is promised in a forthcoming number. When the construction and properties of each of the Society's instruments shall have been described and illustrated by diagrams, their use will be facilitated to the members, the less experienced will be aided in the acquisition of a practical knowledge of the microscope, and further advance in the powers of the instrument itself may be expected by the means thus afforded of a comparison of the principles adopted by the leading microscope makers in this country.

The application of the high powers of such instruments has made it desirable to have fixed tablets inserted in the wall to afford a support to the microscope, which shall be independent of the vibrations of the floor of the apartment. The Council of the Horticultural Society have granted permission to have such tablets set up in our present meeting-room; and they have accordingly been determined upon and ordered.

The rapid increase of the collection of microscopic objects, which has been enriched during the past year by donations from Messrs. Gwilt, Reade, Jackson, Topping, Johnston, Brown, and Prof. Hyrtl of Prague, has shown the necessity of providing the means of preserving and systematically arranging our present specimens and future additions; the Council has, therefore, provided a cabinet, calculated to contain several thousands of specimens.

*Library.*—The collection of books has been increased by donations from Mr. Newman, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Martin, Mr. Bennet and Mr. Hughes.

*Papers.*—The communication from the Rev. J. B. Reade ‘On the Stomata of the Garden Rhubarb,’ relates both to the direct elucidation of a difficult and disputed point in vegetable anatomy, and to an improvement in the mode of preparing vegetable tissues generally for microscopic observation. Mr. Reade has found that by the process of charring, many of the more delicate membranes of plants, which cannot, from their transparency, be well seen by the ordinary method of viewing objects in water between glasses, are rendered conspicuous.

Dr. Williams has applied the charring process described by Mr. Reade to the investigation of the same part of vegetable anatomy. From both these communications we learn that the stomata or breathing pores of plants are generally and naturally patent. Both observers are agreed that when a thin pellicle is demonstrable covering the orifices of the stomata, it is not a proper and integrant part of the organization of the pore, but is referred by one of these observers to Brown’s overlying membrane, and by the other to a layer of inspissated mucus, driven by an air-bubble to the stomatic orifice.

The papers containing the results of microscopic investigations applied to Comparative Anatomy and Zoology, have been contributed by the President, Dr. A. Farre, Mr. Bowerbank, Mr. J. Quekett, Mr. Busk, Dr. H. Johnstone, Dr. Fr. Buchlmann of Berne, and M. H. Lambotte of Brussels. In these valuable communications the organization of the blood-disks, the structure of the egg-shell of the crocodile, and that of the hairs of the bat, have received elucidation.

Prof. Owen’s communication on the microscopic struc-



ture of the teeth of the *Lepidosiren*, gives additional proof that this singular animal is essentially a true fish.

Dr. Farre's paper on the Anatomy of the larva of *Anthomya canicularis* is a valuable contribution both to Entomology, and to the history of human parasites. The true subjects of Entozoology have exercised the skilful observations of Mr. Busk and Mr. Quekett. In the paper on the Anatomy of *Trichocephalus dispar*, the true structure and position of the terminal orifice of the female generative organs are pointed out, and the complicated structure of the alimentary canal of this parasite of the human cœcum is described. Mr. Quekett, in his paper on the parasitic *Strongyli* of the porpesse, has characterized a fourth species — *Str. invaginatus*, in addition to the *Strongyli convolutus*, *minor* and *inflexus*, of which he is disposed to adopt the specific distinction. The development of the ovum of *Str. inflexus* is described, and the paper concludes with a notice of other interesting points connected with these Entozoa, and the probable effects they produce in the economy of the cetaceous animal which they infest.

The history of infusorial animalcules has received additions from the observations of Dr. Haro of Metz, and of the Secretary, Mr. Quekett. The careful examination by the Secretary of the sand adhering to some of the Crustacea brought from Melville Island, in Capt. Parry's Arctic expedition, has yielded some unexpected additions to the Fauna of that remote and inhospitable region, and must be regarded as a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of Infusoria.

I have, finally, under the present head, to notice the paper by Mr. Bowerbank, containing descriptions of three species of sponge; which, like preceding contributions from the same experienced micrographer, form valuable additions to the history of this singular class of organized beings.



*Application of the Microscope to Palæontology.*—In Prof. Owen's paper on the fossil teeth from the old red sandstone near Elgin, a new and complex modification of dental structure is described, sufficiently well marked to serve for distinguishing this ancient genus of fishes, called *Dendrodus*, by a fragment of a tooth.

In the 'Microscopic Journal,' conducted by Mr. D. Cooper, will be found faithful and accredited reports and abstracts of the papers read at the meetings of the Society.

The Council have decided on the publication of Transactions; and in order to accelerate the appearance of those papers which may be deemed worthy a place in the volume, separate copies of each will be issued to any member who may desire to possess them, as soon as they are printed off; the remaining copies being retained to be combined with subsequent papers, in the volume of Transactions of the Society.

Having now completed the narrative of our proceedings for the year, I wish to offer a few observations of a more general character. In the application of the powers and advantages of an association of Observers to gain an intimacy with nature, it is more important in regard to the microscope than to any other instrument of philosophical research, to conceive clearly the aim of our researches, and to give a right direction to our exertions: otherwise we shall ensure mere amusement, or perhaps only fatigue, instead of success.

A slight glance even at the classes of natural objects of which the intimate structure remains but partially if at all known, will suffice to show us how many are the subjects that might be profitably selected by an individual or a committee for a systematic series of microscopical observations. In the animal kingdom, for example, how little we know of the modifications of the microscopical struc-

ture of shells recent and fossil, of the stony habitations of the numerous class of polypes, of the crustaceous coverings of the annulose animals, of the calcareous integument of the Echinodermata, or of the bones in different classes of animals, and in different parts of the skeleton of the same animal.

In Mineralogy how much remains to be done in the microscopical investigation of different classes of rocks, as of oolites, of sands, flints, &c.

If committees were appointed to take different subjects of minute research under their respective care, in how short a time might a vast body of microscopical facts be accumulated !

It gives me great pleasure to state that this philosophical view of the use of the microscope and of a Society of microscopical observers, has been entertained by the Council of this Society, and that it is proposed to apply, from time to time, a portion of the surplus funds of the Society to prepare the requisite sections and specimens which most of such series of researches would require, and which would ultimately form the best subjects of our Transactions, and the most valuable part of our Museum.

Gentlemen, — I have to notice with regret the decease of Mr. H. Memory, a member of the Society distinguished for his skill in the manufacture of the more important parts of the microscope.

And now it only remains for me to thank you most sincerely for the confidence which placed me in this chair, and for the kind support which has been afforded me during its occupancy. I rejoice in the prospect of greater efficiency in the person of my successor; and retire into your ranks with unabated desire to advance the prosperity and utility of the Society.

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The thanks of the Meeting having been voted to the President for his Address, it was proposed by Mr. Ince and seconded by Mr. Newman, that this Address be printed.

The Law relating to the election of Officers was then read; and the Society proceeded to ballot for the Officers and four new Members of Council for the year ensuing.

The ballot having been taken, the following were declared elected:—

#### OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.—JOHN LINDLEY, Esq., Phil.D.

TREASURER.—N. B. WARD, Esq.

SECRETARY.—Mr. JOHN QUEKETT.

#### NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

GEORGE BUSK, Esq.

Dr. ARTHUR FARRE.

WILLIAM GREENING, Esq.

RICHARD OWEN, Esq.

In the room of

JOHN GEORGE CHILDREN, Esq.

JOHN DALRYMPLE, Esq.

JOHN EDWARD GRAY, Esq.

GEORGE LODDIGES, Esq.

who retire from the Council.

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## LIST OF MEMBERS.

---

- \* Adams, John, Esq., 31, New Broad-street
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  - \* Wilson, John James, Esq., 52, Doughty-street, Mecklenberg-square
  - Witham, Henry Le Maire, Esq., F.G.S., Lartington Hall, Barnard Castle, Durham.
  - \* Young, James Forbes, Esq., M.D., F.Z.S., Upper Kennington-lane
- 

 The gentlemen to whose names an asterisk is prefixed in the preceding List, are original members of the Society.

February, 1842.

